

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 00449 141104 Z

12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 NIC-01

RSR-01 /181 W

----- 071259

R 141030 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0449

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0449

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CH, CM

SUBJECT: CHINA EXTENDS \$80 MILLION IN AID TO CAMEROON

REF: YAOUNDE 1015

1. PRESIDENT AHIDJO TOLD RADIO CAMEROON IN AN INTERVIEW ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM CHINA ON APRIL 9 THAT CHINA HAD EXTENDED 150 MILLION YUANS (ALSO SHOWN AS 18 BILLION CFA, APPROXIMATELY \$80 MILLION) FOR THE FINANCING OF PROJECTS TO BE DECIDED UPON IN DUE TIME. HE SAID THE ACTION WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT CREDIT CARRIED NO INTEREST AND WAS REPAYABLE OVER TEN YEARS AFTER A TEN- YEAR GRACE PERIOD. AHIDJO FURTHER QUALIFIED THE LOAN AS SIGNIFICANT IN SIZE, " CONSIDERING THE SHORT PERIOD" OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE FIGURE ABOVE AND THE FIGURE OF \$17 MILLION ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS AGENCY ON MARCH 29 HAS NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL COMMENT. THE LARGER FIGURE HOWEVER, HAS BEEN GIVEN MORE PROMINENCE AND IS ATTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO AHIDJO.

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3. NO DETAILS ARE YET AVAILABLE ON ANY GURC PLANS FOR USE OF CREDIT ALTHOUGH LADGO DAM AND BENUE IRRIGATION PROJECT ARE FREQUENTLY CITED AS LIKELY CANDIDATES.

4. TO EXTENT AT THIS EARLY DATE WE ABLE TO JUDGE CAMEROONIAN REACTION WE BELIEVE THAT SIZE OF CREDIT AND APPARENT GENEROSITY OF TERMS HAVE MADE VERY FAVORABLE LOCAL IMPACT. AVERAGE CAMEROONIAN, OF COURSE, HAS LITTLE AWARENESS OF CREDIT ACCORDED BY PRC TO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WILL TEND TO INTERPRET CREDIT TO GURC AS REFLECTING SPECIAL PRC RECOGNITION OF CAMEROON'S IMPORTANCE. WE CAN EXPECT A FAIRLY WARM GLOW TO CAMEROON- SINO RELATIONS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE BUT DO NOT LOOK FOR ANY DRAMATIC POLICY SHIFTS.
MOORE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC
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